

**Charter
of the
Multinational Interoperability Council**
2nd Edition

April 17, 2002

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PREFACE

This charter for the Multinational Interoperability Council was originally published in March 2000 as a result of the first council meeting in October 1999. The original charter contained provisions that allowed for annual updates based on senior leadership direction. Throughout the ensuing two years there have been several suggestions offered by all member nations to improve the document. In addition, several organization and responsibility changes have occurred which require a charter update.

In November 2000, it was suggested that a signed charter would enhance the official status of the MIC and justify the national expenditure of resources to support the MIC. The MIC Principals agreed to analyze with their respective national HQ staffs the feasibility of signing the MIC charter. All members coordinated with their headquarters staff and agreed to providing signatures on the revised MIC charter from their senior national representatives. The member comments have been incorporated in this latest edition of the MIC charter.

By signing the MIC charter, the signatories are entering into a non-binding agreement to help establish the MIC as a legitimate multinational organization that represents the collective interests of the member nations. It does not obligate the signers to any resources or personnel commitments beyond participating in meetings and a conscientious dialogue aimed at resolving impediments to coalition interoperability. Nor do the signers necessarily commit their countries to any change of national policy or intent.

Charter of the Multinational Interoperability Council

1. INTRODUCTION

The Multinational Interoperability Council (MIC) roots trace to a multinational symposium entitled "C3I for the Coalition Task Force" held in October 1996. Participants were representatives of the Ministries of Defense from Australia, Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. One of the major recommendations of this symposium was to establish a Six-Nation Council to provide oversight of coalition interoperability and assist the implementation of approved actions. A second recommendation was the formation of Multinational Working Groups to generate issues and recommendations for the Six-Nation Council.

At the inaugural meeting in October 1999, the Council members agreed to change the name from the Six-Nation Council to the MIC. It was also agreed to change the name of the Multinational Working Groups to the Multinational Interoperability Working Groups (MIWG).

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the MIC is to provide a multinational forum for identifying interoperability issues and articulating actions, which if nationally implemented, would contribute to more effective coalition operations. It serves as the senior coordinating body for the member nations to resolve "information interoperability" issues and is intended to promote a responsive dialogue between key elements working coalition interoperability issues: defense policy analysts, operational planners, and C4I experts. The overall goal of the MIC process is to provide for the exchange of relevant information across national boundaries in support of the warfighter in coalition operations.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The MIC is composed of senior operations, doctrine, and C4I officials from each of the member nations: Australia, Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom and the United States. It is desired that the lead MIC representative from each member nation be a flag/general officer from the operations branch of the national defense staff, who may be accompanied by flag/general officer or equivalent officials from the plans/doctrine, policy and/or C4I branches. Attendance by other senior officials is welcome.

4. SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

- a. Multinational Interoperability Working Groups (MIWGs):

- (1) The purpose of a MIWG is to explore problems in coalition interoperability, identify and clarify impediments, and prepare prioritized recommendations for approval by the MIC, and implementation by the nations. There may be multiple MIWGs working various coalition interoperability issues as designated by the MIC. A MIWG is task-oriented in its approach to resolving problems impeding coalition interoperability.
 - (2) MIWGs are comprised of O-5/O-6 level representatives from the member nations. Each nation will have one principal representative at the table for a MIWG. Other staff members from various agencies of their national defense staffs may support the country principal. Each MIWG will be functionally oriented so the national representatives may change based on the specific task being addressed. Embassy defense officials may attend MIWG meetings.
 - (3) A Capstone MIWG will be established and maintained to coordinate the various activities of the MIWGs. The Capstone MIWG will consist of the senior national MIWG representative of each nation and the MIC Executive Secretary.
- b. Executive Support Committee (EXCOM): The EXCOM will assist the MIWG(s) in addressing actions in a timely fashion when it is not feasible to convene a meeting of the entire MIWG. The EXCOM will include a representative of each Washington area defense attaché staff, a member of the National Correlation Working Group, and the MIC Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary of the MIC will be an O-6 from the US Office of ASD(C3I).
 - c. Terms of Reference will be established for supporting organizations as required.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

- a. Multinational Interoperability Council (MIC):
 - (1) Promote national actions to resolve impediments to coalition operations and interoperability; coordinate national support for MIC projects as required.
 - (2) Direct appropriate actions to the MIWG (i.e., studies, research, workshops, etc.).
 - (3) Actively engage with NATO, Combined Communications Electronics Board, and other coalition interoperability forums.
 - (4) Exchange ideas on defense policy aspects, new technologies, tactics, procedures, training, and doctrine to enhance interoperability support to the coalition warfighter.
 - (5) Work to establish the MIC as a recognized coordinating organization for relevant coalition interoperability forums.
 - (6) Extend MIC observer status to NATO and other relevant interoperability forums.
- b. Multinational Interoperability Working Groups (MIWGs):
 - (1) Complete actions as directed by the MIC.
 - (2) Identify issues and recommendations for action by the MIC.

- (3) Coordinate member nation positions for MIWG projects.
- (4) Develop relationships with appropriate bodies within NATO and other interoperability forums to avoid duplication and to assist in synchronization of efforts.

c. Executive Support Committee (EXCOM):

- (1) Assist MIC in addressing actions when not feasible to convene entire MIWG.
- (2) Serve as Washington area focal point for information and communication exchange among members.

6. METHODOLOGY

The principal method for accomplishing actions shall be the formation of MIWGs with specific task orientations. For instance, a MIWG may be formed to address the doctrinal impediments to coalition interoperability. In this case, the MIC would provide tasking and actionable items that require the formation of a Coalition Doctrine MIWG with task specific experts to resolve the issues and report back to the MIC on an approved schedule.

Once the MIWG has reached a recommendation, it may bring its recommendation to the MIC in the most appropriate method available. This could be at the annual MIC meeting, or via an ad hoc video teleconference meeting, electronic mail, or conventional mail. The objective should be to send the recommendations forward promptly for approval and then move on to the next interoperability issue.

Since there are many coalition interoperability issues to be addressed, there may be several MIWGs active at one time. Consideration must be given to avoid spreading the limited personnel resources too thin to accomplish the assigned tasks. In some cases, it may be more appropriate for the MIC to allow the EXCOM to address an issue without convening a separate MIWG.

7. RELATIONSHIPS AMONG MEMBERS

The member nations will be equal participants in the MIC, MIWGs, and the EXCOM. The host member will be responsible for conducting the Council session and leading discussion. Each member will be encouraged to present its perspectives on issues.

8. AUTHORITY

The national representatives to the MIC and MIWG(s) should be prepared and empowered to speak for their respective national defense establishment to the extent practical, in accordance with law, and recognizing that the MIC is created as a result of a non-binding agreement. Final approval and implementation of measures agreed to by the MIC will be the responsibility of the members.

9. MEETING SCHEDULE

The MIC shall meet annually, or more frequently if needed, to provide executive oversight and to respond to actions and recommendations from the MIWGs. Ad hoc meetings will normally be via teleconference. Responsibility for hosting the annual meeting may rotate among the members.

MIWGs will meet on a periodic basis at appropriate locations as agreed by participating Ministries of Defense to respond to particular actions and taskings of the MIC. This meeting frequency may vary depending on current workload and tasking from the MIC. The most appropriate format for conducting each MIWG will be determined by consensus. Much of the MIWG work should be accomplished outside of scheduled meetings to ensure sufficient preparation. MIWGs should make maximum use of available technology (email, video teleconferencing, Internet, etc.) to limit travel costs for each nation.

Agenda items for meetings of the MIC or MIWGs may be nominated by any member. The EXCOM will coordinate agenda items based on inputs from national defense staffs.

10. CHARTER APPROVAL AND REVISION

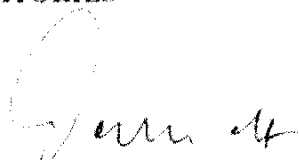
This charter shall be effective upon approval by the senior MIC representatives of all the member nations and will remain in effect until a revision has been coordinated and approved through the same process. The charter will be reviewed at the annual MIC meetings.

SIGNATORIES



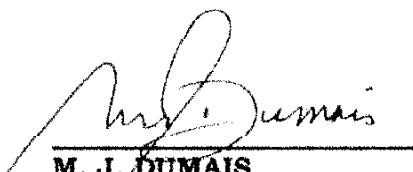
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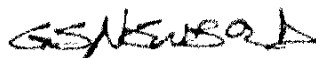
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